

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /092 W

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R 111305Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1168

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY GENEVA

OECD PARIS 2695

USUN NEW YORK 518

CONFIDENTIAL COPENHAGEN 1970

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, EGEN, DA

SUBJECT: DANISH DILEMMA ON HANDLING CHALLENGE OF
LDSS IN UN FORUMS

REF: (A) COPENHAGEN 1939

(B) COPENHAGEN 1726 (NOTAL)

(C) STATE 133602

1. IN A DISCUSSION JULY 10 WITH FONOFF DEPUTY UNDER
SECRETARY WANDEL-PETERSEN, ECONCOUNSELOR SAID HE
HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WAS
NOT IN FULL AGREEMENT ON HOW THE LDC CHALLENGE SHOULD
BE HANDLED BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES--INCLUDING
REFERENCES TO CERDS AND NIEO IN VARIOUS UN FORUMS.
WANDEL-PETERSEN SAID THAT WAS INDEED THE CASE. HE
AND HIS STAFF (INCLUDING ISAKSEN -- SEE REF B)
BELIEVE THAT DENMARK DID RIGHT IN VOTING AGAINST
THE CERDS LAST YEAR AND FEEL THAT, FOR THE LONGER
RANGE BENEFIT OF THE LDCS THEMSELVES, THE DEVELOPED
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COUNTRIES SHOULD TAKE A FIRM LINE OF OPPOSITION TO

UNREASONABLE AND UNREALISTIC LDC PROPOSALS.

2. THIS LINE WAS POSSIBLE UNDER THE PREVIOUS LIBERAL (HARTLING) GOVERNMENT BUT NOT WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WHO TOOK OVER THE GOVERNMENT LAST JANUARY. WANDEL-PETERSEN SAID CURRENT FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN MADE CLEAR BOTH PUBLICLY AND TO THE MINISTRY STAFF THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE APPROVED A NEGATIVE VOTE ON CERDS AND WANTS ISSUES DEAR TO THE HEARTS OF LDCS TO BE HANDLED WITH GREATER DELICACY IN THE FUTURE. THIS WAS THE REASON WE WERE TOLD EARLIER (REF B) THAT DENMARK WOULD HANDLE THESE ISSUES ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS AND, AT BEST, ABSTAIN FROM VOTING ON SUCH ISSUES.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE VACATION SEASON HAS POST- PONED THE "DISCUSSION INDEPTH" ON LDC ISSUES WHICH HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR BORCH A MONTH AGO. SOME FURTHER INDICATION OF DANISH THINKING MAY COME FROM THE INFORMAL GENEVA MEETING WE HAVE PROPOSED (REF C). IT WOULD, IN ADDITION, BE AN APPROPRIATE SUBJECT FOR THE ANNUAL BILATERAL UN CONSULTATIONS. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT THE DANES WILL BE INCREASINGLY WARY OF ANYTHING SUGGESTIVE OF CONFRONTATION SO LONG AS THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS REMAIN IN POWER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CERDS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COPENH01970
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750241-0603
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750761/aaaacckk.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 COPENHAGEN 1939
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DANISH DILEMMA ON HANDLING CHALLENGE OF LDSS IN UN FORUMS
TAGS: EGEN, DA, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006